

INDEXA



Winter 2003

Issue 60

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship
Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

Who needs 3X? *by Frank Rutter, DL7UFR*

"No one will need 3X after you QRT," wrote W0SF in the 3XY7C DXpedition guestbook.

From 31 October to 13 November 2002 the 3XY7C team was QRV from Guinea and logged 52,480 QSOs from 160 to 6m.

After completing our DXpeditions to Togo, 5V7VJ, and Burkina Faso, XT2OW, in October 2000, Sigi, DL7DF; Dirk, DJ7UC; and Frank, DL7UFR, began to think about a future DXpedition. We made numerous contacts and, with the support of Francois, VE2XO, who had been QRV from Guinea many times, our next destination became clear. Francois introduced us to Khalil, a native of Guinea who helped with the arrangements. By May, 2002 our license was in hand!

Technical preparations

While licensing was being arranged, technical preparations were also in progress.

Our goals became clear. We would operate from 160m to 6m with special activities on the low bands, WARC and 6m, and would have simultaneous operation of up to 4 stations—3 stations for shortwave and 1 station for 6m.

We took two IC 735s, two IC 706s, three PA TY900s, 5 Notebooks, 1 SCS PTC II, 2 V80Es, one 3-element Mosley beam, one A3WS, one R7, 1



(l) Frank, DL7UFR; and, (r) Sigi, DL7DF

6-element Yagi for 6m, 500m coax, glass fiber staffs, wire for wire antennas, etc. Because of the amount of luggage, we had to negotiate with the airline in advance of our departure.

Our trip begins

At 6 o'clock on 30 October 2002, Sigi, DL7DF, and his XYL, Sabine; Tom, DJ6TF; Dirk, DJ7UC; Manfred, DK1BT; Wolf, DL4WK; Tom, DL7BO; and Frank, DL7UFR met at the airport in Tegel. We flew from Berlin to Paris but there was a 2½ hour delay and we hoped that our guide, Khalil, would wait for us. We were depend-

ent upon him to help us with the authorities when we entered the country. Our hope was fulfilled! Khalil was waiting for us. He handled the formalities and 2 hours later we were on our way to the hotel.

When we arrived it was dark and not a good time to begin antenna work so we used the evening to clarify formalities in the hotel and enjoy dinner with our guide and his wife. The next day we examined the hotel area and decided where we would place the antennas. Space in the hotel garden was limited so with

(Continued on next page)

inside...

W4WMQ—CQ DX Hall of Fame

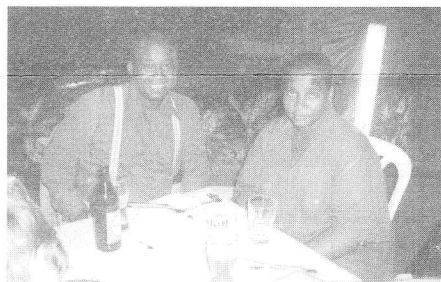
ZL1AMO Air Ambulance Fund

Coming Soon! E-Newsletter

Staff Profile—KH6MT/W4

3XY7C.....from page 1

Khalil's help, we looked for alternatives. We visited the inhabitants of the adjoining property and rented part of the property for our antennas. On the rented property were the remains of a building. The concrete foundation was reinforced with steel netting so this became the earth ground for the V80E for 80 meters.

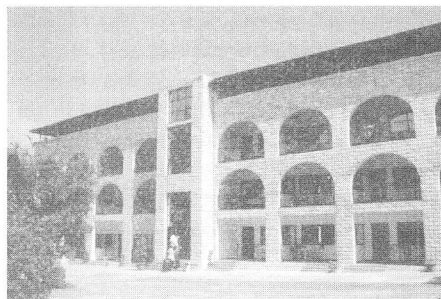


A warm welcome from Khalil and his wife

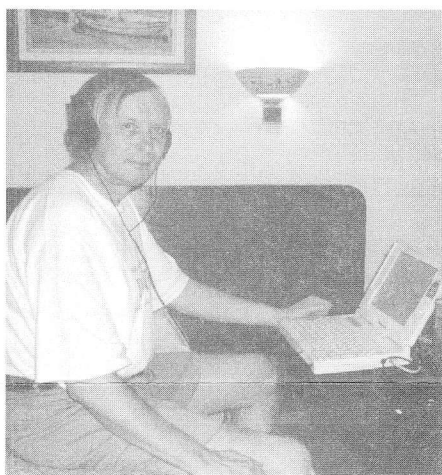
We also placed the 3-element Mosley beam here.

We placed the V80E for 160m and the A3WS in the hotel garden and we got permission from the hotel manager to put the R7 and the 6-element Yagi for 6m on the hotel roof. On the late afternoon of 31 October 2002 all antennas were up except for the V80E for 160m. The temperatures were over 35 degrees so we decided to put up this antenna the next day.

We quickly assembled the stations in 2 hotel rooms. All QSOs were logged in K1EA's CT. Each station was connected by a remote interface cable and a CW cable with the transceiver. We knew this would work



***—Hotel Riveira Guinee—
The R7 and 6-element Yagi for 6m are on the roof.***



Manfred, DK1BT

from previous DXpeditions. Now 3XY7C was "on the air!"

Although Guinea has many mineral resources including oil, gold, diamonds, and bauxite, and energy resources such as water and power, Guinea is one of the poorest countries in the world. The gross domestic product is 508 USD per inhabitant. The average life expectancy is 45 years.

The power supply in Conakry is extremely unreliable. There are power failures several times each day, often lasting many hours. Our hotel had a diesel generator which could go online within a few minutes. Unfortunately, on the last two days we had power and generator failures so we were inactive for hours waiting for the power to return. This explains the interruptions as we worked the pileups.

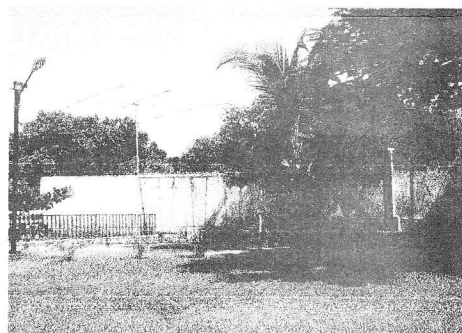
On 1 November 2002 the V80E for 160m was finally setup. Now all antennas were available and the team could concentrate entirely on radio activities. Within the first 3 days, 20,000 QSOs stood in the log.

Several times each day the logs were secured and once a day they were transferred to the online log. The total log was prepared with the BINLIST program by DL3DXX for transfer by means of the program Airmail and the PTCII over the

Winlink mailbox ZS5S on the Internet. This usually happened between 0400 and 0500 UTC. The e-mails with the log data were then regenerated automatically by the log robot of DL6MHW and read into the online log database. We thank Bernd, DF3CB, who supervised the mail and maintained the Website. Thanks also to Michael, DL6MHW, and Joost, ZS5S, for the support of the DXpedition.

Wolf, DL4WK, supervised the 6m activities. On Saturday morning, there was a lot of noise on the 6m band; nevertheless, we continued to call regularly and finally the band opened. First we reached stations from the south of Europe, then later the north. At the end of the day we had logged 400 QSOs. Sunday was better. The band began with an opening toward the east of Europe; later it moved north and we logged the first stations from the USA, and finally stations from W6. After two days we had 1,000 QSOs in the log. Each day offered new openings and in the end there were approximately 2,400 QSOs in the log.

After logging 20,000 QSOs, we didn't want to make the digital community wait any longer so with 1 station Manfred, DK1BT, began the RTTY. On subsequent days we were



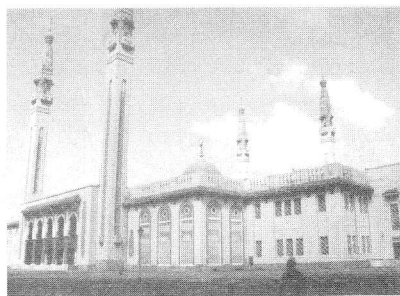
The A3WS in the hotel garden

QRV with RTTY and the high point of the RTTY activities was the participation in the WAE RTTY contest on 9 and 10 November. We neglected PSK31 to favor RTTY.

Finally, we announced SSTV activ-

ity. Manfred had prepared everything and with the use of the SSTV program "MMSSTV" of JH3HHT, we called CQ for the first time in SSTV. The resonance was very good and we quickly developed a system for processing SSTV pileups.

The 4 radio stations were constantly occupied but we still found time to sightsee in Conakry and visit the Iles of the Loos and Viole de la Marie.



—Mosque of King Faycal—
85% of the population in Guinea is Moslem.

Conclusion

In closing, we can state that the expenditure for this DXpedition was worthwhile.

We thank Khalil for the support he provided in his country. We also thank Francois, VE2XO; the personnel of the hotel Riveira Guinee; Bernd, DF3CB; Joost, ZS5S; Michael, DL6MHW; and Dietmar, DL3DXX.

In addition, we extend our thanks to all our sponsors without whom this DXpedition would not have been possible. You will find a list on our homepage: <http://www.qsl.net/d17df>.

Where to reach us

International DX Association
P. O. Box 607
Rock Hill, SC 29731
USA
www.indexa.org

W4WMQ receives nomination

The International DX Association nominated founder and first president, Murphy G. Ratterree, W4WMQ, for membership in the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

Murph was licensed as an Amateur Radio operator for nearly fifty years before his death in 2002. He loved the hobby and his place on the DX Honor Roll. He encouraged all Amateurs to get involved in the hobby and to contribute their individual talents to its advancement. He believed that radio operators should embrace the highest ethical standards and uphold the optimum level of operating procedures. With these standards in mind Murph, along with W4JXM and W3DJZ, organized INDEXA as a non-profit organization in 1983.

Murph served INDEXA as president from 1983 until he became a Silent Key and his personal standards became INDEXA's standards as stated in its bylaws and goals. These goals are emphasized daily on the INDEXA Information Session.

Over the years, under W4WMQ's leadership, INDEXA granted DXpeditions over \$160,000 in financial support and provided over 600,000 QSL cards.

From its beginning, INDEXA has helped rare and semi-rare DX get on the air by providing equipment and training. During this time, while promoting goodwill and friendship, INDEXA has expanded its membership around the globe. Currently, 20% of the membership resides outside the United States and this number continues to grow.

Murph was the personification of what Amateur Radio and DX is about. He always gave of his time and energy to further the hobby. Throughout the DX world, W4WMQ is still regarded as a great Ham and an outstanding human being!

E-edition coming soon!

New look! New medium!

Beginning in fall 2003, the INDEXA newsletter will be available in print or electronic format. The e-format will offer several benefits including vivid color photographs and substantial savings in postage fees which means more available funds to support DXpeditions!

INDEXA is currently compiling a list of members who would like to receive the electronic format edition. If you would like to be included on this list, please send an e-mail confirming your address to:

- Bill Jennings, W4UNP, Secretary-Treasurer at: w4unp@comporium.net.
- Judy Roush, AA7UC, at: jroush@cybertrails.com.

The newsletter will be sent as a PDF file in Adobe Acrobat so that it can be opened by anyone with Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can download it for free at the following URL: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

ZL1AMO fund a success!

Thanks to the generosity of DXers worldwide, INDEXA's ZL1AMO Air Ambulance Fund met its fundraising goal of \$20,000 USD (\$40,000 NZD)!

Because of our commitment to fiscal accountability, all administrative costs were absorbed by INDEXA so that 100% of all contributions went directly to the fund.

On behalf of Ron Wright and his family, INDEXA thanks each of you for your prayers, concern, and support.

As Ron continues to recuperate, let us look forward with great anticipation to the day when we will routinely work him again on the air!

Staff Member Profile—KH6MT/W4

When you talk with Terry Oldham, KH6MT/W4, he will tell you that DX is his life. But wait! This statement comes with the qualifier: "Next to my family!" So, let's start from the beginning and introduce you to those closest to Terry.

Terry's XYL, Georgia, is an RN who works as a surgical services charge nurse in a local hospital. Combined, he and Georgia have three children and two grandchildren who live in KY. As Terry says, "They make the world go around!"

But wait! There's more. No family is complete without a dog or a cat and in Terry's case, it's a cat. His "hammin' cat" is "a real trip." She lays on the desk as he operates, keeping his mouse warm, unlike W7KEU's cat who eats the mouse!



Emily and Misty enjoying quality time with Uncle Terry, KH6MT/W4

Terry was first licensed in March 1960 as WV2LDB. After two tries, he upgraded to General Class and became WA2LDB. Terry's current call is a vanity call which he intends to keep.

In 1976, he moved to Hawaii and in 1988 he moved to Florida. Terry has been a DXer since 1960.

Terry is a modest man who will tell you, "I was honored to be invited to join the INDEXA staff and I sincerely hope to fulfill the obligations. I stepped into a big pair of shoes with the passing of Gene, N5BLK."

Terry, INDEXA is as honored to have you on the staff as you are to be here. Welcome to the team!

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DX World Guide by Franz Langner, DJ9ZB

Rojahn & Kraft Verlag, P.O. Box 620367, D-22403 Hamburg
(\$17 US + postage)

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Life membership: \$150 U.S.

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